

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the ABSTRACT paragraph on page 28 as shown below:

ABSTRACT

A method of microbially deactivating items and storing the same, comprising the steps of:

a) placing items within a cavity in a sealable container having fluid access ports therein, the fluid access ports having a normally closed position and being moveable to an open position;

b) placing the container having items to be microbially deactivated in the cavity into a reprocessor having a circulation system for circulating a microbial deactivation fluid during a deactivation cycle, wherein the fluid access ports in the container are moved to the open position ~~by actuating means on the reprocessor~~ to be in fluid communication with the circulation systems by contact with the reprocessor;

c) circulating the microbial deactivation fluid through the cavity of the container; and

d) removing the container from the reprocessor following a deactivation cycle, wherein removal of the container from the reprocessor causes the fluid access ports to assume the normally closed position.